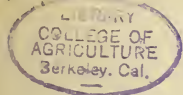


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Georgia State College of Agriculture

Andrew M. Soule, President

Extension Division

J. Phil Campbell, Director

Athens, Ga.

NOVEMBER, 1915

Circular 14

Co-operative Extension Work in Horticulture and Home Economics, Georgia State College of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture co-operating.

Beginning With Live Stock

Milton P. Jarnagin, Professor Animal Husbandry

There are two general systems of farming, first, grain or staple crop farming, and second, stock farming. Under the first system, crops produced and sold off the farm are used for food or clothing. Under the second system, feed crops produced as in the first system, are utilized by feeding to livestock. The marketable products are then meat, milk, pork, wool, mutton or work animals.

It is, therefore, evident that the stock farmer must know about crop production and in addition be familiar with the principles of breeding, feeding, management, marketing qualities and breeds of livestock. In the older farming sections, the richest fields and most prosperous communities are found where much livestock has been kept. If the boll weevil had never appeared in Georgia to enforce agricultural changes, more attention should have been given to the production of livestock anyway. It is now doubly important.

In starting or increasing this industry it is the part of wisdom to first make the most liberal use possible of livestock now available. According to the 1910 census there were in Georgia 1,080,316 head of cattle, 1,783,684 hogs, 120,067 horses and 187,644 sheep. Thus we see that of cattle, horses, hogs and sheep, Georgia is now maintaining something over three million head. Evidently there are now available more than a million and a half head of breeding females, mostly of the commoner classes of livestock. In every instance these females should be bred to registered sires of superior individuality for the production of market stock. In no instance should men without experience begin stock husbandry by attempting to produce registered animals.

A few examples of what has been accomplished by the use of registered sires on the College farm will serve to illustrate. In 1908 an average grade Jersey cow was purchased by the College for \$35.00. She was bred to a registered Holstein bull and produced a black and white heifer calf. At two years old she freshened and

was put into the dairy herd. Accurate records were kept of the amount of food given both the mature cow and heifer and detailed records were also kept of the amount of milk produced. From the time the dam was five until she was seven years old, she gave an average of 5,352 pounds of milk. During the first two milking periods, or the time from which the heifer was two until she was four years old, she produced an average of 8,975.5 pounds of milk. Thus it is seen that the heifer by a registered bull produced 3,623.5 pounds more of milk during the first two lactations than was produced by her mature dam. In this instance the use of a pure-bred sire affected an increase in milk production of 67.7 per cent. Where milk sells at 30c a gallon there was increase of \$126.41 per year for the use of a good sire. This is an extreme case, but illustrates forcibly how pure-bred sires used with native dairy cows may repay immediately. In like manner values can be added to all classes of livestock by the use of registered sires.

In 1908 a carload of cattle was purchased in south Georgia at an average cost of \$17.00 per head. They were bred to registered beef bulls and the calves grown out under normal farming conditions, and have been put on the market at an average age of about 22 months and at an average price of approximately \$48.00 per head.

Breeds

While it is not advisable for the beginner to attempt to produce registered stock he should familiarize himself thoroughly with the leading breeds adapted to the section, and his specific needs in order that he may more intelligently select sires. It should be recognized at the outset that the best breed of livestock depends somewhat on the individual farmer's likes and dislikes.

The accompanying outline gives the qualifications of breeds of stock more commonly found in Georgia. Many of these have been tried out on the College farm. Prospective buyers should write the College for literature and more detailed information concerning any of the breeds, should they contemplate buying registered sires.

Shorthorns. Of the beef breeds Shorthorns have long occupied a most conspicuous place in American agriculture. In color they are red, white or roan. They are the largest of the beef breeds and show unusual development in the region of the loin, rump and hind quarter. With their great size, strength of bone and length of time they have been bred pure, they will prove one of the most effective breeds in giving size and fleshing qualities to calves out of native cows.

Herefords. Herefords are the second most popular beef breed found on American farms in the United States. They are uniformly red in color with white faces and white on the underloin. They are accepted by most stockmen as being superior to other breeds in rustling ability or aptitude to thrive on comparatively sparse pasturage. They have accomplished wonders in the improvement of

beef cattle in the range country and are destined to be used extensively in Georgia. They are objected to, however, by many of the smaller farmers because of the small quantity of milk given.

Aberdeen Angus. The Angus cattle, also known as Polls or Black Polls, have long been recognized as one of the standard breeds of beef cattle. Uniformly they are hornless and black in color, and these two characters will be transmitted to progeny in at least 95 per cent of the cases where prepotent Angus bulls are used. They more nearly approach the ideal butcher beast than any of the other breeds but have been objected to on account of their lack of size.

Dairy Breeds

Jerseys. Judged by numbers, Jerseys are one of the most popular breeds of cattle in Georgia and for the dairy or as a family cow will give excellent results. The color may be shades of fawn, or almost white to nearly black in color.

Holstein-Friesians. This breed is black and white in color and is the largest of the strictly dairy breeds. On account of the size there has been a tendency to class them as beef cattle. However, this is a serious mistake and no attempt should be made to use them for this purpose. They are excellent milk producers and fairly good butter producers.

Guernseys. The Guernsey as a breed is very similar to the Jersey in appearance except that there is a little more of a reddish tinge to their color. In weight they are from 100 to 200 pounds heavier.

Ayershires. This is the fourth dairy breed of importance in the United States but next to the Holstein in size and amount of milk produced. The breed has not become generally popular in the state so far but would be admirably adapted to the mountainous section of the state.

Dual-Purposes

With the increased interest in cattle breeding in the South, an urgent demand has arisen for cows capable of giving an adequate supply of milk for family use and at the same time raise a calf that will be profitable as a feeder.

Milking Shorthorns. Certain strains and families of Shorthorns show a disposition to produce a good quantity of milk. In fact, it is generally conceded that of the strictly beef types, Shorthorns are the heaviest milkers.

The dual-purpose type of Shorthorn is similar to the strictly beef type except that there is probably a little more length of leg and a much more pronounced udder development.

Red Polls. This is a red, hornless breed of cattle that inclines a little more to the dairy type than does the Shorthorns. They have been recognized as profitable milk cows for many decades in England and high producing herds of them are maintained in several sections of the United States.

Devons. On account of their milk-giving capacity, rugged constitution and rustling ability, the Devon breed of cattle has met with considerable favor in many sections of the South. They are uniformly red in color and very attractive in appearance. The objection to them is that they are too small in size and too slow in maturing.

Hogs

Fat Type. America, with its abundant supply of corn, has developed a distinctive type of hog. The recognized breeds of this type are the Duroc-Jersey, Poland-China, Berkshire, Chester White, and Hampshire. Individual excellence within the breed, is more important than the breed itself. Good herds of practically all these breeds are maintained in Georgia and the beginner should have no difficulty in finding satisfactory breeding stock at reasonable prices.

Bacon Type. Tamworths and Yorkshires are recognized as the two distinctive breeds of bacon hogs. The essential characteristics in this type is that they shall show a relatively large amount of muscle or lean meat and relatively small amount of fat. High priced breakfast bacon can only be made from hogs that have been bred for the purpose and have been fed on flesh-forming rather than fat-forming feeds. The ability, however, to develop the required amount of lean meat is more a matter of inheritance than feed. Since much of the hog feed should be provided in the nature of grazing crops, bacon hogs are becoming adapted to the South. Because of the large muscular development they are very active and as a rule are better grazers than the lard type of hogs. There is little to choose between the Tamworth and Yorkshire except that the red color of the Tamworth is less susceptible to sunburn and skin disorders than the white Yorkshire.

Horses

Self-propelled vehicles of various types have militated so seriously against light horses that the wisdom of trying to produce anything but drafters or workstock on southern farms is seriously doubted. The most outstanding defect in native mares is the lack of size and bone. This can be improved more quickly by the use of draft stallions than through the use of light horses or coach horses. For the past six years the College of Agriculture has been using Percheron horses most successfully. Half-bred Percherons produced by native mares have demonstrated the advisability of this cross. After one or two crosses of draft stallions have been made on native mares the farmer who desires, can then go to the production of mules.



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